

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN.

SUMMARY OF CHURCH NEWS.

CONGREGATIONAL.

The Hopkinton (N. H.) Congregational Association has been discussing the woman's suffrage question with a great deal of warmth.

Rev. Joseph Ayer, at the age of seventy-seven, was installed, May 11, over the Congregational Church of Volantown and Sterling, Conn.

Rev. C. M. Hyde has resigned the pastorate of the Congregational church at Brimfield. His salary has been \$1100 heretofore, \$800 of which comes from a parsonage which this spring not to make even \$100 additional.

The Congregational Publishing Society reports for the year total receipts of \$110,183, with \$10,983 left in the treasury. The old board of officers—of whom Dr. W. Barrows, Rev. Asa Bullard, and Moses H. Sargent hold the responsible situations—were re-elected.

Henry Ward Beecher, in a sermon last Sunday, took decided ground against what has been called the "Puritan Sabbath." He believed in walking out and in writing letters on that day, and wouldn't sign a petition against allowing horse cars to run on Sunday.

The Presbyterians have just built in Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, the finest church in the city.

The Established Presbytery of Glasgow have allowed one of their churches to introduce a harmonium.

The Church in Springwater, N. Y., hitherto Congregationalist, but adhering to the Plan of Union, has perfected its organization by electing elders.

The exact position of the question of union between the Free and the United Presbyteries of Scotland is this: The friends of union are being bitterly opposed in their proposition that the synods shall ask the presbyteries to vote whether union on the basis of the Standards shall be considered. If they vote affirmatively, the synods will have to send down once more in the succeeding year a definite plan of union.

The University place and Mercer street Presbyterian Churches, of New York city, have been consolidated under the pastorage of Dr. Booth. The congregation will worship in the University Place Church, and the Mercer Street Church will be sold. The respective membership of these two churches was 263 and 634. The Westminster Presbyterian Church, of Brooklyn, proposes to disband. It is to be near the South Congregational Church, Dr. H. M. Storrs, pastor.

EPISCOPALIAN.

The Bishop of London has forbidden Father Ignatius to preach in London; but he has gone just across the river, and preached in a church in the diocese of Bishop Wilberforce, of Winchester, with no reluctance from him.

Dr. Ewer leaves Christ Church, New York, soon, to study in Europe the newest developments of advanced ritualism, for the future benefit of his church. It is said to be not improbable that Mr. Mackonochie may accompany him on his return.

METHODIST.

One of the principal denominations of the Cherokee is the Methodist.

Bishop Kingsley's last sermon was preached at Bethel, Palestine, near Jerusalem, in March last.

Two Methodist churches were destroyed in Fort-au-Prince during the late revolution in Hayti.

Two hundred and seventy scholars are in attendance at Wesleyan Female College, Cincinnati.

A church, costing \$75,000, the finest in West Virginia, was recently dedicated at Wheeling by Bishop James.

The Primitive Methodists and the Wesleyans of Ireland have voted by a large majority that their two bodies should be amalgamated.

Bishop Simpson will leave this city next week to preside over the German and Swiss Methodist Conferences. Some members of his family will accompany him.

By the will of the late Edward Y. Bright, of Sunbury, Pa., the sum of about \$20,000 is bequeathed to the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

At the session of the Australian Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, laymen were appointed on district committees on Sunday schools, and several ministers expressed themselves as favorable to such a course, and it is not improbable that lay delegation will finally be introduced.

The laying of the corner-stone of the Northwestern College at Naperville, Ill., recently, was an important event of the Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota Conferences of the Evangelical Association. The Endowment Fund now amounts to \$67,000, and it is expected to be raised to \$100,000 by the patronizing conferences above named. The building will cost \$22,000.

Of the chief missionary societies of England the Wesleyan Missionary Society reports a revenue of \$728,500, the Church Missionary Society of \$709,000, the Propagation Society of \$638,000, the London Missionary Society of \$638,500, and the Baptist Missionary Society of \$197,000; being in most cases an advance over last year, and forming a total for the five societies of \$2,600,000.

The eighteenth annual commencement of Dickinson College, at Carlisle, in this State, takes place next week. The following is the programme of the exercises:

Sermon before the Society of Religious Inquiry.—Sunday, June 5th, at 10 1/2 o'clock A. M., by Bishop James.

Baccalaureate address.—Same day, at 7 1/2 o'clock P. M., by President Dashiell.

Class day of the Senior Class.—Tuesday, June 7th, at 9 1/2 A. M.

Oration and Poem before the Literary Society.—Same day, at 8 o'clock P. M., Lee T. G. Chattle, M. D., Orator—W. H. Allen, LL. D., President Girard College.

Annual meeting of General Belles Letters and Union Philosophical Societies.—Wednesday, June 8th, at 8 o'clock P. M.

Oration before Alumni Association.—Same day, at 8 o'clock P. M., by Hon. C. W. Carrigan, of class of 1847.

Commencement.—Thursday, June 9th, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The graduating class numbers sixteen members.

BAPTIST.

The Disciples (Campbellites) have for some years been pushing their faith in Australia. They now propose to ask their membership here to assist in establishing a college in Australia. Within the last six years the members have increased from 700 to 3000, and there are 13 preachers.

Peter Bayne says, in the Watchman and Reflector, that Mr. Spurgeon is willing to visit the United States if he can be assured that Baptists here will be willing to do something for his college and his orphanage. He will not attend the Evangelical Alliance. Mr. Spurgeon is but 36 years old, and preached 1000 sermons before he was 21. For the last five years 25,000 copies a week of his sermons have been sold. Not less than 14,000,000 copies have been sold in England, besides 300,000 volumes in America. From one to three volumes have been published in Welsh, German, French, Swedish, Dutch, and Italian, besides separate sermons in Gaelic, Tamil, and the Maori language of New Zealand. He has baptized not less than 6000 persons, but has now transferred this work to his brother. He was settled in London in 1854, when but 29 years old, and had then been preaching for four years.

ROMAN CATHOLIC.

Two cases are reported in the Irish papers in which nuns have lately escaped from the convent.

The London Tablet says that it learns on excellent authority that the Vatican Council will sit all next year.

An accommodation signed by fifty-four Roman Catholic pastors of New York has been sent to their archbishop, pledging themselves to support their own religious schools, and condemn-

ing the position of Dr. McGlynn, the too liberal pastor of St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church. The Bavarian students of Roman Catholic theology have been forbidden by their bishop to attend Dr. Dollinger's lectures, since he attacked infallibility; and, to counteract this, the King of Bavaria has directed that no one be admitted to the service of the Church in Bavaria who has not studied eighteen months in a Bavarian university. It is a general rule in Germany to require students in all branches of learning to pursue half their university course in the country in which they apply for employment. The Pittsburgh Catholic prints commented on its editorial page a long article holding up the New York Freeman's Journal as being more dangerous than Harper's Weekly. Mr. McMaisters, the editor, is an extreme advocate of Papal infallibility, and has been the subject of attack on Archbishops Purcell, of Cincinnati, and Kenrick, of St. Louis, for signing the document relative to the inopportunities of promulgating the dogma. The writer in the Catholic says:—

I am a priest, and by no means a rigorist; and yet, were I Mr. McMaisters' confessor, never would the learned gentleman (theologian though he may regard himself) obtain absolution from me until after a public apology for his abusive and scandalous article.

The leaders of the Orthodox Greek Church are talking about holding an Oecumenical General Council.

Three peers—Lords Radstock, Farnham, and Teynham—are at present engaged in preaching in various parts of Great Britain.

The American Unitarian Association met last week in Boston. It was decided next year to elect ladies on the board of directors. The question of a creed was discussed, Messrs. Colver, Hewitson, and Mayo being in favor, and Mr. Lowe and Dr. Bowser against it.

The American Missionary Association held its anniversary in Boston last week, and reported for the year 638 missionaries and teachers in their service, of whom 105 are colored. In the day-schools are 19,500 scholars, in the night-schools 2848, and 10,224 in Sabbath-schools. The number of teachers is greater than ever before; but the expense is not increased, as the freedmen pay a larger share. There are 20 per cent. less pupils in the lower departments, while in the normal department the number is double, and 5 college students appear for the first time on the lists.

Dr. Barrows, of the Congregational Publishing Society, recently said that, of the four denominations which in Massachusetts support the American Sunday School union, the Congregationalists contributed every cent of the \$27,291 received during the month ending March 15, 1870. Chaplain Trumbull replies that in the year ending March 1, 1870, a single Baptist Sunday school contributed more than all the Congregational Sunday schools combined, and that a single Presbyterian church in New York gave more than all the Congregational churches in Massachusetts. We add, for the information of those outside of New England, that till within a short time the Congregationalists there have given in their contributions to their own Massachusetts Sabbath School Society.

The Boston Tract Society has had another stormy meeting, extending over two days. The receipts last year were \$9082 from donations, and \$12,687 from legacies, making a total of \$21,769 less than last year, and showing a want of confidence on the part of its patrons. The Executive Committee advised that a committee of fifteen be appointed to examine into the social affairs, and make suggestions as to its future course to a special meeting which they shall be empowered to call. Mr. Marvin presented a resolution as a substitute that a board of referees shall suggest a division of the property of the society among the publishing societies of the denominations concerned. This was adopted by a vote of 80 to 70, and then reconsidered; and the next day the resolution of the Executive Committee was passed.

RAASLOFF.

The Danish War Minister's Statement to the Rigsdag—His Reasons for Resigning—The Failure of the United States to Keep Faith with the Danish West Indian Colonies—His Confidence and Courage Utterly Swamped Thereby.

Despatches by cable recently alluded to a speech made by General Raasloff, late Minister of War and of the Navy, in the Folketing—the House of Commons of the Danish Rigsdag—explaining his resignation, and the negotiations with this Government relative to the transfer of St. Thomas to the United States. This interesting address has reached us in full by mail from Europe, and we take it the following language:

This honorable body will bear in mind that I have spent a number of years in the United States, both in private and in official capacities. I have during that time become intimately acquainted with that country, and have formed a very high opinion of the character of the American people. I have learned to appreciate them, and believe them to be the honest and high-minded people with whose sentiments for the people, in the midst of whom I had lived so many years, when on my return to Europe, in the summer of 1867, I was called to a seat in the Folketing, and under these circumstances it was quite natural that I should be requested by the Government to assist in the negotiations for the transfer of the Danish West Indian Islands, which have then already been carried on for upwards of two years. It is the consequences of my participation in these negotiations which have rendered me unable to tender my resignation. It was my friendly feelings for the United States which caused me not only warmly to recommend the conclusion of the negotiation, so strongly and persistently urged by the American Government, but also, on all and every occasion, to vote for the United States, consistently asserting that they would be most advantageously negotiated with them, on their part faithfully and conscientiously fulfill every obligation which they might have incurred.

It is not for me to judge whether that conviction, so often expressed by me to His Majesty, my colleagues, to members of the Rigsdag, and to a number of others, has exercised any influence upon the negotiations; I do not know what scrapes our Government may have had at various times, nor in how far I may have contributed to overcome them, and to render the Government disposed subsequently to take the steps required by the convention; but while not knowing—and not at liberty to say, in the Folketing, if any influence in that respect I may have exercised, I am ready to acknowledge that I have spared no pains to make such an influence felt. It is a comfort of having done my utmost to persuade our Government, in the making of this convention, and, as already mentioned, of having invariably offered to guarantee that the United States would be conscientiously and as ourselves, fulfill every obligation. It is well known to the House that no sooner was the treaty made, ratified, and carried out by Denmark, than difficulties, not only in the way of its fulfilment, but even of its ratification, arose on the part of the United States, and it being evident that misconceptions in regard to the origin of the negotiations and the manner in which they have been conducted were prevalent in that country, I could not but consider it my duty to go to Washington with a view to enlightening the leading men and the people with regard to the true state of the case.

If I were in Washington that I became fully aware how much I had exposed myself on behalf of the United States. I could no longer remain blind to the fact that, having availed myself of the opportunities which my position as a member of the Cabinet, and as a former envoy, afforded me, to satisfy our Government that it ran no risk in entering into that great republic upon conditions of the cession of territory—negotiations which are always of a most delicate nature—I had gone so far that if I were to be withdrawn from the matter, I should leave me in the lurch the blow would fall upon me very severely, and would be one of those events which I have always been ready to meet with a vigorous and courage, his confidence in himself as well as a faith in those things which we ought to be able confidently to rely upon. I became firmly convinced that in case I should, by such an event, be deprived of these qualities, I could no longer occupy the responsible positions held by me; that time and some time subsequently, having arrived at this conviction, I at the time communicated it to the honorable President of the Council, and since then nothing has occurred that could make me view this matter in a different light, or shake the determination that I had arrived at while in Washington. I hope and trust that my participation in this case will not have done me any harm, and that the confidence of my fellow-citizens, but what I feel at this moment is, that the issue of this unfortunate affair has—at least for the present—deprived me of the courage and confidence in myself without which I could not, and ought not, to continue to fill the responsible offices intrusted to me.

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